

SPiRiT OF THE PRESS.

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

The Cabinet.

From the N. Y. Times. We regret to find that we wounded the sensibilities of our friend of the Tribune by the bit of what we deemed harmless badinage in regard to the Cabinet, the other day. We did not think it possible he could be offended by it, as he had not seemed to be by the much more elaborate, and less evident, badinage of the Sun about his going as Minister to England. We are quite willing to concede the "cheapness of the wit," but we demur to the imputation of "disrespect." Manifestly we know of no better service we can render, by way of atonement, than to give currency to the Tribune's assurance...

The Senate and the Debt.

From the N. Y. Times. The country is so accustomed to the slow movements and procrastinating habits of the Senate when practical reforms are to be achieved, that the failure thus far to touch the bill prohibiting any increase of the gold-bearing debt excites no surprise. It is a simple and obviously beneficial measure involving no difficult theory of practice, and ought to be disposed of without delay. But the Senatorial fashion of talking everything to death may defeat even this bill. It still lingers in the Finance Committee, where its fate is further jeopardized by conflict with the rearranged plans of Mr. Sherman. There is nothing half so dangerous as a pet financial theory. And as Mr. Sherman would cure financial ills by increasing the most oppressive form of the debt as a result of putting greenbacks out of the way, it is perhaps natural that he should wish to smother a bill which assumes that that debt is sufficiently large already, and aims at preventing its increase. But Mr. Sherman's partiality for his hobby, though it may explain, will not excuse, the suppression of one of the most useful measures of the session.

The positions assumed respectively by the House and Senate on financial questions differ somewhat from those with which public opinion has commonly associated them. The House has been suspected of heresies; the Senate has rejoiced in a reputation for orthodoxy. The events of the present session have altered the relation. The House has proved itself desirous of strengthening the public credit, and a series of acts has contributed to the marked increase of confidence which is revealed in the rapid rise of our securities abroad. The bill to which we have referred as slumbering in the Senate committee is one of these, and by no means the least important. The Senate, meanwhile, indulges its fondness for debate by nursing Mr. Sherman's scheme for increasing the debt, the enactment of which would neutralize all the good effected by the judicious action of the House. The promise of Mr. Sherman to push forward Mr. Schenck's Public Credit and Coin Payment bill is good as far as it goes. But if he would do his whole duty to the public credit, he will not let the session close without finishing the effective means devised by the House for stopping the growth of the gold-bond debt.

General Grant and the Internal Revenue Bureau.

From the N. Y. World. It may possibly be that Mr. Rollins, after a dozen feints in that direction, will actually go out of office on the incoming of the new administration. The belief that he may do so is strengthened by the statement that he has made an engagement with Jay Cooke to take the Boston agency for one of that gentleman's financial schemes which has received the favor of Congress, and also by the fact that he cannot decently retain the post longer than the fourth of next month. When he does go out one of the most important offices under the Government will become vacant, and General Grant should realize the full measure of the responsibility which will rest upon him in filling it. President Johnson has been repeatedly accused by radical journals while the Cuba cable was lost at a depth of eight hundred fathoms, on an uneven bottom, and with a vast volume of water driving over it at an average rate of four miles an hour. Preparations for the work were made by placing on the steamer New England machinery similar to that used for recovering the lost Atlantic cable on board the Great Eastern. Owing to the strength of the current, the grappling ropes were required to be unusually strong. They consisted of sixteen steel wires, each encased in Manila hemp, and laid up in strands of four each. This rope was divided into lengths of two hundred fathoms, with shackles and swivels between each. The point where the cable was found was passed over with the grapples six times, and thrice the cable was caught. On the first occasion the cable parted, through some fault in the machinery, a heavy sea running. On the 15th of February it was caught again and successfully raised and landed, and now we have a double cable to Cuba as we have to Europe. The operations were performed under the personal supervision of General William F. Smith, President of the International Telegraph Company, and Sir Charles Bright, Engineer-in-chief of the company. This event is another assurance of the practicability of handling ocean cables and laying them, and will conduce to strengthen the science of ocean telegraphy.

ant places have been used with utter disregard for the interests of honest citizens or the extent to which they might be jeopardized and injured.

In the selection of a candidate for the Internal Revenue Commissionership, General Grant must exert an immense pressure on the part of the "whisky ring." Every influence, of course, will be brought to bear, and every expedient resorted to which human ingenuity can suggest, by those whose interest it is to secure a man for the place who will lead himself, either directly or indirectly, to their design. The ring are perfectly well aware that with a competent and upright man in the office, the frauds in whisky, which are going on to this day in the open market and under the very nose of the officials, would be broken up. It is idle to talk of Mr. Rollins' probity or capacity while his bureau is in the condition it is—a condition of disorganization and demoralization, not to say corruption. It is not much to his credit that he has permitted his whole office to be run by a clique who have recklessly trifled with the national interests. If he had been mentally fit for the position, that clique would not so stubbornly held in defiance of the popular condemnation of his conduct, the whisky and tobacco frauds throughout the country would never have thriven as they have done; that is, assuming him to really be what his friends claim that he is—thoroughly honest. He would have purified his bureau, broken up the pernicious set of understrappers who have worked the office business in their own interest, and displaced some individuals who are strongly suspected of corruption. General Grant should understand, in making a choice of the place, that simple honesty alone is not sufficient. What is wanted is combined integrity and ability—a ability of a high order; and until the post is thus filled, there will be no improvement over the present order of things. At this hour, illicit whisky floods the market, even under the low rate of tax, which it was confidently and reasonably expected would insure honest payment upon the whole dutiable production. With energy, determination, and ability at the head of this bureau, there would be no such condition of things. Let General Grant put an honest and capable man in Rollins' place, and the country will soon perceive the difference between the results of an efficient and inefficient administration.

Mullins.

From the N. Y. World. Will the Honorable Mullins, of Tennessee, have the goodness to let the Angel Gabriel alone? In a general way, we have no particular objection to Mullins. He is to the average stupidity and monotonousness of the average radical member of Congress in this country what the late Colonel Sibthorp so long was to the average stupid and monotonousness of the average Tory member of Parliament in Great Britain. Mullins cheers us, and, as we are glad to believe, without including himself. Mullins sober is more muddled and more amusing than nine in ten of his colleagues would be drunk. Mullins on mules, for example, on Friday entertained the House and the country very agreeably; and the gifts of Mullins, in the character of "Mark Antony" pronouncing funeral orations, have heretofore received in these columns no stinted praise or inadequate exposition. It would really gratify us to have Mullins both praise and bury the same day. There is a vast extent of country between the Potomac, Ohio, and Mississippi rivers where skilled labor is badly wanted, land cheap, and nature prodigal of her gifts to those who have the industry to gather them. The regeneration of this region we believe is to be effected by the sturdy farmers of the North. But it has been difficult for them to select homes in the South. The distances are great, and fares on the Southern roads are very high. This new arrangement will remove the difficulty. Holders of excursion certificates will be taken at the rate of two cents a mile over any of the thirty-one roads which have joined in the agreement, and actual settlers at the rate of one cent a mile. A great number of leading hotels in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia will deduct one-third from their usual charges in favor of the same persons. Most of the roads in question are in the Southwest, forming a complete network from Louisville to New Orleans, Mobile, and Charleston; but there are some also in Virginia and North Carolina. Fuller particulars as to roads and distances, and the conditions on which excursion certificates are granted, can be obtained of G. M. Huntington, No. 225 Broadway, New York. The arrangement is to remain in force until the 1st of July.

Recovery of the Second Cuba Cable.

From the N. Y. Herald. It will be remembered by our readers that the attempt of the International Ocean Telegraph Company to lay a second cable between Key West and Havana failed last year from the drifting too far to the eastward of the steamer Narva while laying it, and the consequent necessity of dropping some miles from the shore, the end of which was to have been landed in Cuba. The one was buoyed, and the buoy-rope broke one hundred and twenty-five fathoms below the surface, and hence the necessity for grappling for the cable in the same manner that the Great Eastern grappled for the first Atlantic cable. The work to recover the Cuba cable was performed under very different circumstances from that of recovering the Atlantic cable. The latter lay at a depth of one thousand nine hundred and eighty fathoms, on a level bottom, under still water, while the Cuba cable was lost at a depth of eight hundred fathoms, on an uneven bottom, and with a vast volume of water driving over it at an average rate of four miles an hour. Preparations for the work were made by placing on the steamer New England machinery similar to that used for recovering the lost Atlantic cable on board the Great Eastern. Owing to the strength of the current, the grappling ropes were required to be unusually strong. They consisted of sixteen steel wires, each encased in Manila hemp, and laid up in strands of four each. This rope was divided into lengths of two hundred fathoms, with shackles and swivels between each. The point where the cable was found was passed over with the grapples six times, and thrice the cable was caught. On the first occasion the cable parted, through some fault in the machinery, a heavy sea running. On the 15th of February it was caught again and successfully raised and landed, and now we have a double cable to Cuba as we have to Europe. The operations were performed under the personal supervision of General William F. Smith, President of the International Telegraph Company, and Sir Charles Bright, Engineer-in-chief of the company. This event is another assurance of the practicability of handling ocean cables and laying them, and will conduce to strengthen the science of ocean telegraphy.

John Bright on Ocean Penny Postage.

From the N. Y. Herald. At a banquet of the Associated Chambers of Commerce held the other evening in London, John Bright made a characteristic speech, and urged, we are told, the importance and necessity of adopting the system of ocean penny postage. There is no public man living now in England whose name is so extensively and honorably associated with reform as John Bright. Since 1832 up until the present time there has been no reform movement in Great Britain to the success of which he has not

largely contributed. Mr. Bright is the very man to take up the question of cheap ocean postage. It is one of those improvements which to prosecute requires only the advocacy of such a man. The times are ripe for a change. There is but one argument that can be used against ocean penny postage—that it will not pay. This, however, is an argument that has no solid foundation to rest upon. All the facts are against it. It is a truth which cannot be gainsaid, that in proportion as national and international postage has been opened, so has it become serviceable and so has it proved remunerative. The lines which now bind Great Britain to the United States are so numerous and so strong that facilities for the communication of thought and feeling, not to speak of more substantial interchanges, for the present cannot be sufficiently multiplied. A two-cent postage between this country and Great Britain would be immediately followed by a similar arrangement between this country and Germany. The arrangement would be a gain to all concerned. It would be a special gain to the United States, for which reason we hope, not merely that Mr. Bright will keep up the fire, but that it will be warmly responded to on this side. The thing has but to be started to prove a success.

An Impudent Politician.

From the N. Y. Herald. Mr. McClure wants General Grant to appoint to his Cabinet from Pennsylvania some man who will keep the Republican party in that State together—who will vitalize it, and make it "pulse." This is the true political argument, and what these words as used by politicians mean can be understood when people understand McClure. McClure some months ago went out to the Indian country, and there saw how things could be done in the way of a big job. His eyes were opened—he was excited. He must get that thing in his hands some day. McClure is McClure's man. McClure pulls the wires that move Grant in the eyes of the public, just as Thurloe Weed has pulled the wires for many political puppets from this State. McClure's plan, then, was to make Grant Secretary of the Interior, and through him as such Secretary to get possession of the Indians. This is the whole of it. This is what his concern for the "Republican party" means, and this is the beginning, the middle, and the end of all that he had in view in his invidious assault on the President-elect.

Emigration to the South.

From the N. Y. Tribune. We receive almost every day inquiries about Southern lands from Northern farmers who want to emigrate. It is impossible for us to advise all these correspondents as to particular localities, for a country that would suit one would not suit all. We are glad to perceive that the Southern railroad companies have combined to facilitate the diffusion of information respecting these millions of rich acres which await the hand of industry, and to diffuse it, too, in the only way which can be of much practical use, namely, by enabling farmers to go and spy out the land for themselves. A convention of officers, representing between thirty and forty roads, met in Atlanta on the 4th of January, and adopted a system of excursion tickets, at greatly reduced rates, for actual settlers or for persons who wish to examine the country with a view to settlement or investment. There is a vast extent of country between the Potomac, Ohio, and Mississippi rivers where skilled labor is badly wanted, land cheap, and nature prodigal of her gifts to those who have the industry to gather them. The regeneration of this region we believe is to be effected by the sturdy farmers of the North. But it has been difficult for them to select homes in the South. The distances are great, and fares on the Southern roads are very high. This new arrangement will remove the difficulty. Holders of excursion certificates will be taken at the rate of two cents a mile over any of the thirty-one roads which have joined in the agreement, and actual settlers at the rate of one cent a mile. A great number of leading hotels in Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Georgia will deduct one-third from their usual charges in favor of the same persons. Most of the roads in question are in the Southwest, forming a complete network from Louisville to New Orleans, Mobile, and Charleston; but there are some also in Virginia and North Carolina. Fuller particulars as to roads and distances, and the conditions on which excursion certificates are granted, can be obtained of G. M. Huntington, No. 225 Broadway, New York. The arrangement is to remain in force until the 1st of July.

Advising General Grant.

From the N. Y. Tribune. It has not seemed to us advisable to proffer any counsel whatever to the President-elect as to the formation of his Cabinet. We have several excellent reasons for his reticence, only one of which need be mentioned—this, namely, that he has not asked our advice in the premises. The others may or may not be equally good, but it cannot be necessary to adduce them. For, while we do not question the right of any citizen to volunteer suggestions in the premises, and would by no means incline the President to disregard and defy the wishes of his friends, we do insist that his own personal judgment and wishes should have very great weight in the selection of those high functionaries who are to be his confidential official advisers, probably throughout his term of service. They are to be his familiar daily associates, his intimate, trusted counselors; he must rely implicitly on their integrity and fidelity; he must, to a great extent, see through their eyes, remove and appoint on the strength of their recommendations, and be honored or disgraced in the public estimation as they shall do well or ill. It may be too much to call them his personal or civil staff; yet it is simple truth to say that they stand to him in a confidential relation of intimacy and trust which imperatively demands that they shall be emphatically the men of his choice, and not imposed upon him by political combinations or personal pressure. The administration will be known in history as his; he must and will be judged and measured by its success or failure; and possibly we may call into his council the able or worthless, but others whom his choice will exclude, but only that his personal preference is entitled to peculiar and even paramount weight in the choice of Cabinet officers. —The wolf bounty in Minnesota has been reduced from \$10 to \$3 per head.

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